United Nations A/65/634

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 December 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 20 (d)
Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Letter dated 8 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 7 December 2010 from the Prime Minister of Greece addressed to you on the outcome of two recent initiatives undertaken by Greece in its effort to contribute to addressing the global challenge of climate change (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 20 (d).

(*Signed*) Anastassis **Mitsialis**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

10-69340 (E) 231210

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As the gathering of all nations in Cancun, Mexico, for the 16th Conference of the UNFCCC Contracting Parties is starting, it is my pleasure to bring to your attention two recent initiatives undertaken by Greece, in our effort to contribute towards addressing the global challenge of climate change.

The first of these two initiatives took place in October 2010, when Greece organized the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative (MCCI) in Athens, with the participation of all States bordering the Mediterranean region. During that event, 18 Mediterranean States signed the *Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative Joint Declaration*, by which they aim at contributing to the emergence of low carbon, resource efficient, and climate resilient economies in the Mediterranean region, also in cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean. I attach to this letter the Joint Declaration for your information (see enclosure 1).

The second initiative took place in the context of the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), the title of which was "Black Sea turns Green". One key outcome of the Greek Chairmanship was the Joint Declaration of all 12 countries participating in BSEC, adopted just a few days ago in Thessaloniki, Greece, at the closing event of the Chairmanship, the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the BSEC countries. In this declaration, the 12 countries jointly committed themselves to working together for turning the Black Sea region towards a green development model, and addressing climate change through a regional policy and common approaches. I also attach to this letter the *Thessaloniki Declaration for the Black Sea* (see enclosure 2), which is to be presented at a special press conference in Cancun, as part of the Greek Chairmanship Initiatives.

Greece is strongly committed to becoming a leading country in the global effort to turn towards a new development epoch, an era of green development that will help mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects; a development era that will also secure sustainable and equitable economic growth, by valuing human capital and using resources in line with the planet's limitations. We try to aim our action at the national, regional, and global levels, and like to think that this global effort can and will be driven by example.

I hope that this contribution by Greece and the other 23 countries involved in the two initiatives will be of assistance to your continuing efforts to reach a global consensus in order to tackle climate change.

Sincerely yours,

(*Signed*) George A. **Papandreou**

Enclosure 1

Joint Declaration on Combating Climate Change in the wider Black Sea area adopted at the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

(Thessaloniki, 26 November 2010)

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States: the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine, met in Thessaloniki, on 26 November 2010, and

Being aware that climate change, constituting a global problem resulting mostly from human activities, is a common challenge faced by all countries and therefore it requires global solutions as well as regional cooperation,

Recognizing that the Black Sea area is vulnerable to many negative impacts of climate change and therefore our countries should work towards a binding international agreement on climate change,

Recognizing also the importance of developing and implementing regional approaches as appropriate for combating the negative impacts of climate change as well as for reversing continuing trends of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation,

Acknowledging that environmental technologies and practices aiming at protecting the land and marine environment, biodiversity and natural resources can secure a future of welfare for our region,

Being convinced of the importance of assuring the sustainable development of the wider Black Sea area and maintaining a long-term development process to the benefit of all,

Acknowledging the need in the Black Sea region for more effective action by sharing best practices experience and tools in mitigating climate change and seek common solutions to the benefit of all,

Being aware of the response to climate change as an opportunity for promoting green economy, creating new prospects for enhanced regional cooperation and economic development in the region,

Considering the importance of elaborating forward-looking approaches in the wider Black Sea area towards green development, as part of a coordinated regional response to climate change and a basis for sustainable development, that will enhance economic activity, investment, entrepreneurship and employment, by also focusing on a gradual turn towards new technologies, including cleaner energy and higher energy efficiency projects,

Stressing that the responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development with a view to avoiding adverse impacts on the latter,

Annex to the letter dated 8 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As the gathering of all nations in Cancun, Mexico, for the 16th Conference of the UNFCCC Contracting Parties is starting, it is my pleasure to bring to your attention two recent initiatives undertaken by Greece, in our effort to contribute towards addressing the global challenge of climate change.

The first of these two initiatives took place in October 2010, when Greece organized the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative (MCCI) in Athens, with the participation of all States bordering the Mediterranean region. During that event, 18 Mediterranean States signed the *Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative Joint Declaration*, by which they aim at contributing to the emergence of low carbon, resource efficient, and climate resilient economies in the Mediterranean region, also in cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean. I attach to this letter the Joint Declaration for your information (see enclosure 1).

The second initiative took place in the context of the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), the title of which was "Black Sea turns Green". One key outcome of the Greek Chairmanship was the Joint Declaration of all 12 countries participating in BSEC, adopted just a few days ago in Thessaloniki, Greece, at the closing event of the Chairmanship, the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the BSEC countries. In this declaration, the 12 countries jointly committed themselves to working together for turning the Black Sea region towards a green development model, and addressing climate change through a regional policy and common approaches. I also attach to this letter the *Thessaloniki Declaration for the Black Sea* (see enclosure 2), which is to be presented at a special press conference in Cancun, as part of the Greek Chairmanship Initiatives.

Greece is strongly committed to becoming a leading country in the global effort to turn towards a new development epoch, an era of green development that will help mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects; a development era that will also secure sustainable and equitable economic growth, by valuing human capital and using resources in line with the planet's limitations. We try to aim our action at the national, regional, and global levels, and like to think that this global effort can and will be driven by example.

I hope that this contribution by Greece and the other 23 countries involved in the two initiatives will be of assistance to your continuing efforts to reach a global consensus in order to tackle climate change.

Sincerely yours,

(*Signed*) George A. **Papandreou**

Enclosure 1

Joint Declaration on Combating Climate Change in the wider Black Sea area adopted at the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

(Thessaloniki, 26 November 2010)

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the BSEC Member States: the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Turkey and Ukraine, met in Thessaloniki, on 26 November 2010, and

Being aware that climate change, constituting a global problem resulting mostly from human activities, is a common challenge faced by all countries and therefore it requires global solutions as well as regional cooperation,

Recognizing that the Black Sea area is vulnerable to many negative impacts of climate change and therefore our countries should work towards a binding international agreement on climate change,

Recognizing also the importance of developing and implementing regional approaches as appropriate for combating the negative impacts of climate change as well as for reversing continuing trends of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation,

Acknowledging that environmental technologies and practices aiming at protecting the land and marine environment, biodiversity and natural resources can secure a future of welfare for our region,

Being convinced of the importance of assuring the sustainable development of the wider Black Sea area and maintaining a long-term development process to the benefit of all,

Acknowledging the need in the Black Sea region for more effective action by sharing best practices experience and tools in mitigating climate change and seek common solutions to the benefit of all,

Being aware of the response to climate change as an opportunity for promoting green economy, creating new prospects for enhanced regional cooperation and economic development in the region,

Considering the importance of elaborating forward-looking approaches in the wider Black Sea area towards green development, as part of a coordinated regional response to climate change and a basis for sustainable development, that will enhance economic activity, investment, entrepreneurship and employment, by also focusing on a gradual turn towards new technologies, including cleaner energy and higher energy efficiency projects,

Stressing that the responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development with a view to avoiding adverse impacts on the latter,

Taking note of the important contribution of the civil society in highlighting and tackling the issues related to climate change and environment, as well as their extensive expertise and know-how in this field,

Welcoming the "Black Sea turns Green" approach, proposed by the Hellenic Chairmanship-in-Office of the BSEC, which aims to reaffirm the role of the BSEC as a leader in regional cooperation,

Have agreed to:

1. **Endorse** the vision to transform the BSEC region into a model of clean energy by adopting low pollutant practices through resource efficient and climate resilient economies, in mitigating climate change.

2. **Develop** regional policy approaches on mitigating climate change with respect to the capabilities of the countries concerned and at the same time ensuring energy security and a sustainable development process providing for growth, employment and welfare.

3. **Strive** to develop common approaches on climate change demonstrating leadership and strong commitment to action in the international arena, aiming at contributing to international and regional agreements through seeking the possibility of developing common policy positions, as well as project-based initiatives.

4. **Continue** their work on the adoption of regional regulations and development programmes, so as to set the framework for attracting public and private investment in all sectors that can contribute to this vision.

5. **Benefit** from the existing network of civil society organizations dealing with climate change and environmental issues in the Black Sea area.

6. **Strengthen** collaboration on addressing common challenges by elaborating shared plans and initiatives concerning the implementation of models of environmental risks assessment, especially early warning prediction models, with the aim of taking joint measures and increasing safety precautions against disasters in the wider Black Sea area.

7. **Further increase** public awareness on ecological issues for the long-term safety of the Black Sea environment.

8. **Commit** themselves, within this framework, to contributing to the success of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.

Enclosure 2

Joint Declaration
On the establishment of
The Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative

Today, the 22 October 2010, the participants to the meeting held in Astir Palace in Athens, Greece for the launching of the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative:

Recalling the inaugural announcement of a Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative by the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic on the 3rd Mediterranean Sustainable Energy Summit in Athens on 18th and 19th May 2010,

Taking into consideration that participating countries that are also member States of the EU, are committed to implement European Legislation to all policies pertaining to Climate Change,

Acknowledging that the Mediterranean region has been identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as being especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change,

Taking into account that many of these impacts such as increased risk of drought, longer fire season, reduction in crop productivity, are common across the Mediterranean region,

Recognizing that, despite the Copenhagen Accord, a legally binding international agreement on climate change remains to be secured,

Acknowledging that it is imperative that the Mediterranean presses ahead with action now, sharing best practice, experience and tools to adapt to changes already being observed and seek solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,

Stating that opportunities for common low carbon development strategies in the Mediterranean should be pursued,

Noting that the Mediterranean region has an unrivalled potential to become a major hub of renewable energy generation for domestic and neighbouring markets,

Acknowledging that this potential implies increasing the technical strengths to exploit available resources and the creation of finance mechanisms as well as intensifying collaboration, including in the field of grid interconnections, which the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is fostering through the Mediterranean Solar Plan,

Taking into consideration that large scale renewable energy projects, the development of both climate adaptation and other mitigation solutions could bring significant new opportunities for a "green economic boost" to the Mediterranean,

Noting that the potential for the creation of new local businesses and jobs arising from demand side measures in cities, buildings, transport, industry and tourism have yet to be fully explored,

Acknowledging that the emergence of a strong, action oriented Mediterranean voice would contribute to global efforts to tackle climate change through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process and will

also ensure that issues relating to adaptation measures and low carbon development opportunities for the region are explored at the international level,

Hereby jointly declare the launching of a "Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative".

The Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative will aim at contributing to the emergence of low carbon, resource efficient and climate resilient economies in the Mediterranean and its objective will be to undertake strategic policy development work on climate change adaptation and low carbon development relevant to the entire Mediterranean region. The Initiative will seek to contribute to addressing the specific challenges faced by the Mediterranean region. The Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative will aim at developing convergent Mediterranean positions on climate change demonstrating leadership and strong commitment to action in the international arena.

The participants envisage the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative as both an autonomous Mediterranean political initiative aiming at strengthening international and regional agreements through common policy positions and concrete actions, as well as a projects-based initiative to be eligible for the UfM banding. The Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative aims to strengthen collaboration on convergent challenges and opportunities across the Mediterranean and place a greater focus on the implementation of UfM projects in the Mediterranean region. The Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative will also collaborate with other initiatives in the Mediterranean where value can be added through joint working.

The participants also state that they are equal partners in the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative and that any other interested parties in the region can eventually be active and become equal partners in the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative.

...***...

The signing ceremony led by Deputy Foreign Minister of the Hellenic Republic Spyros Kouvelis concluded with 18 Political Delegations signing the Joint Declaration:

Albania

Bulgaria

Croatia

Cyprus

Egypt

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

France

Hellenic Republic

Israel

Italy

Malta

Mauritania

Montenegro

Palestinian National Authority

Romania

Serbia

Slovenia

Turkey